



**Committee on
Homeland Security Democrats**
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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Contact: Jennifer Porter Gore
Nadra Harrison
202.226.2616

**Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member
Rep. Bennie G. Thompson Introduces Bill Creating Database of Small,
Disadvantaged, and Minority-Owned Businesses**

Federal Agencies Would Have Ready Lists of Small Business Contractors

WASHINGTON – Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, has introduced bipartisan legislation that would help small, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses help rebuild their communities during disasters.

“The ‘FEMA Small Business Database’ (H.R. 4427) bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to create a database of small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses from around the country. This database can help federal agencies identify locally-owned businesses within an affected region so as to ensure that these businesses are known and given priority in the response and recovery phases of disasters.

“The contract award process has been abysmal,” said Rep. Thompson. “The Department of Homeland Security maintains that this dismal record is due to a lack of information about the existence and capabilities of local and small businesses. This could be remedied through proactive action that creates a database of local resources before a disaster occurs. This will ensure that local residents are given the leading role for rebuilding their communities.”

Original co-sponsors of Mr. Thompson’s bill include: Reps. Gene Taylor (D-MS), Rodney Alexander (R-LA), William J. Jefferson (D-LA), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), and Ted Poe (R-TX).

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